Montana's
Immunization Information System

WIZRD
Web-based Immunization Registry Database

QUESTIONS **PROVIDERS** ASK ABOUT
IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS

What are Immunization Information Systems?

Also known as Immunization Registries, Immunization Information Systems, or IIS, are confidential, computerized information systems that attempt to collect vaccination data about all children within a geographic area. If an IIS includes all children in a given geographical area and all providers are reporting immunization information, it can provide a single data source for all community immunization partners.   WIZRD (Web-based Immunization Registry Database) is Montana's Immunization Information System (IIS). The registry houses the immunization records for children in Montana. All immunization providers within the state can create and share electronic immunization records for their clients, which makes the delivery of childhood immunizations much easier. In this capacity, the registry provides a valuable tool for the management and reporting of immunization information to public health professionals, private and public healthcare providers, parents, guardians and other child care personnel.

What information is collected about the patient?

The registry collects information about the patient and patient's immunizations. The information that can be entered into an IIS registry may include, but is not limited to:

- Full name
- Immunization record
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Address
- Phone number

How is information in the registry kept confidential?

All registries must protect the privacy of all users, including children, families, and providers. According to standards set by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all registries are required to have a written privacy policy that clearly defines notice of inclusion in the registry, access to, use and disclosure of IIS data.

What can an IIS do for my practice?

An IIS:
- Simplifies immunization record keeping
- Provides quicker access to immunization records
- Helps you keep track of a patient's immunization status.

The IIS can also help you:
- Easily find immunizations for children new to your practice
- Provide official copies of immunization records with the touch of a button
- Reduce or eliminate chart pulls needed for coverage assessments
- Facilitate routine doses administered reports required for vaccine accountability.

Can the IIS exchange data with my billing software or electronic medical records?

Many registries have the ability to electronically exchange data with clinical systems including electronic medical records. The capacity and direction of this exchange depends on the technical capacity of the electronic medical record system and the registry. Many state IIS use the industry standard Health Level 7 (HL7) protocol to exchange this type of patient's immunization information. Others may use batch file exports to an IIS. Contact your software vendor and the Montana Immunization Program to learn more about your capacity for electronic data exchange into WIZRD.

Is reporting to an IIS allowed by the HIPAA Privacy rule?

Yes, reporting of immunizations to an IIS is allowed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule since it is considered a public health activity. While allowed, state policy requires that consent for participation in the IIS is obtained to allow sharing of information.

What do other healthcare providers think about IIS?

Policy Statements and Letters of Support or Endorsement of IIS have been written by the following organizations:
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Medical Association
- National Association of Pediatric Nurses
- Associates and Practitioners
- National Medical Association

What will participation in an IIS cost my practice?

There is no charge for providers to use an IIS, although incorporating use of the IIS into your office's daily procedures will take an initial investment of time and effort.

Does participation in an IIS really help improve immunization rates?

Yes. For journal articles documenting IIS effectiveness, visit CDC's IIS publications database: **www2a.cdc.gov/nip/IIS/IISPubs/ISPubsMain.asp**

Where can I learn more about WIZRD?

Contact the Montana Immunization Program at 444-5580 or visit **www. immunization.mt.gov**

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Additional Resources:

CDC's Immunization Information Systems web site: **www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/default.htm**
American Immunization Registry Association: **www.immregistries.org/**
Every Child By Two: **www.ecbt.org/registries/**

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